



The QUARAE



Volume 20 Issue 12

Editor John Lindvay WB3IFD

December 2019

It Seems to Me

First off, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. We can celebrate the season together by attending the Christmas Party. It is lots of fun to see fellow hams and their spouses in a different setting.

I have been working a lot of FT8 lately. Contrary to popular opinion, I can't remotely operate the mode. I have to push the button to start transmitting again after every contact. I am sure that someone has added some code to put WSJT-X in automatic mode or as some people say "robot mode". The ARRL is afraid of someone setting up a transmitter and computer on an expedition and running it in "robot mode". The ARRL has modified its rules to ban such operation.

I got up early the morning of November 23 and went down in my ham shack to see what was happening on FT8... It was too early for 20 meters and just a few stations were on 40. But they were all good stations from the other side of the world. I heard a few stations from Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Australia, Japan and New Zealand. I even heard a station from Hawaii. 20 meters opened up about 8 AM or shortly after sunrise. I checked 10, 12, and 15 and didn't hear anything.

Needless to say, I worked quite a few new ones by getting up early.

I also received a nice email from Don McBride, K3RLL.

Thank you John,

I greatly appreciate you coming back to my 1 watt 20m FT8 signal this afternoon and confirming my

just completed QRP Digital DSB Xcvr actually works! I think we all know what great sense of relief comes when a project not only doesn't produce smoke when first powered up, but actually does what it is supposed to do.

I was very skeptical of the viability of such low power on FT8 but you just proved that it can work, and with a signal report that makes me happy.

Details: HOA Antenna restrictions here in Florida so using 9:1 Unun to 33' wire up and over the garage.

Power: 1 watt

Thank you very much.

I've enclosed a couple of photos should you care to see what less-than-massive station was on the other end here in Florida this afternoon.

72/73,

Don McBride,

K3RLL <>< <http://www.qsl.net/k3rll/>

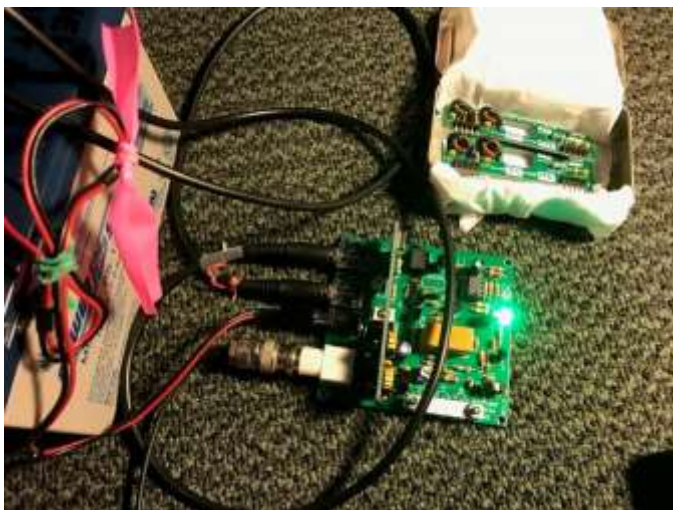
KX1 #2396 | K2 #1569 | KX3 #4565 | K3 #8404

NAQCC #1905 | FISTS #13504cc 2064 | PB #187

FP #1843 | QR



PARCI #3881 | SKCC #3133S



Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?

Christmas Party

All hams and their family are invited.

\$16 per person includes gratuity

TICKET DEADLINE 12/6/2019

Location: Senior Citizen, Center Summit Township,
1450 Townhall Rd. W., Erie, PA 16509

When: Saturday, December 14, 2019, Time 4 PM
until 8 PM.

Dinner 5 PM

Menu:

Baked Chicken, Glazed Ham, Meat Balls, Rigatoni.
Parsley Potato's w/Garlic Butter
Green Beans w/Bacon,
Glazed Carrots, House Salad
Coffee, Rolls, Butter, Lemon Aid
Desert: Cake.

For reservations contact Sue Seyboldt at (814) 969-8542.

Once reservations are made you are obligated to pay even if you don't attend.

Mail Check Payment To:

Wattsburg Wireless Association
C/O Allen Platz
8091 New Road
Cranesville, PA 16410

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

November 2019 General Meeting at the Red Cross Building

Began At: 7:00 P.M.

Board Members and Officers Present: Kc3gbd-Bob, N8wxq-Frank, K1zik-Ed, Kb3zvh-Richard

Members Present: Ka3cpv-Joe, N3dbc-John, W3ifd-John, Kb3daf-Sam

Program presented by Frank Etzler N8WXQ a YouTube video about the California Emergency Agency Ham Debacle

New Hams: None

Silent Keys: Wa3crc and Kb3eyf

Treasurer's Report: \$1138.23 in Checking, Received Donation of \$200.00 from the Erie Runners Club, Debit \$35.88 for Electric Bill

Facilities Report: Water needs to be turned off in bathroom, Turn on heater in bathroom to protect the pipes from freezing.

Repeater Report: Echo link has been down. Rick went up to the repeater and fixed the problem.

Public Service: Done for 2019

Contesting Report: November Sweepstakes

Old Business: None

New Business: Christmas Party December 16, 2019 at Summit Senior Citizens Center.

Meeting End at: 8:00 P.M.

Everybody have a Happy Thanksgiving!

WHY DO THEY LOCK GAS STATION TOILETS? ARE THEY AFRAID SOMEONE WILL BREAK-IN AND CLEAN THEM?

ARRL to Launch New On the Air

ARRL is launching a new magazine, *On the Air*, in January 2020. To be published on a bimonthly basis, *On the Air* will offer new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication. Each issue will include advice and insights on topics from the variety of Amateur Radio interests and activities: radio technology, operating, equipment, project building, and emergency communication.

The goal of this new magazine is to be a vital resource in helping new and newer radio amateurs get active and involved in radio communications. “*On the Air* responds to the brand new and not-so-brand-new radio amateur seeking ideas and answers,” said QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY. Schoenfeld is part of the ARRL staff team that developed the new magazine. The planning included an extensive national level study of new Amateur Radio licensees, identifying their motivations for getting licensed and their experiences of getting started. A focus group responded positively to a trial sample edition of the magazine.

Mike Anderson, KB3ZSF

WHAT WAS THE BEST THING BEFORE SLICED BREAD?

DMR happenings

Joe Shupienis W3BC
Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Our WPA Digital Voice Net affords you the opportunity to gather with other DMR users once a week to share comments and make friends

throughout our WPA Section. 7:30 pm every Wednesday on DMR Talkgroup 31422.

Thanks to all Repeater Owners who carry the 31422 WPA talk group full time. It allows WPA DMR users to stay in touch, wherever we may roam! With the rapidly growing DMR interest, and very affordable dual mode, dual band DMR/FM radios, you can get on the air digitally for around \$100, and have lots of people to talk to! If you have a local repeater carrying DMR, please drop me an email, listing the frequency, location, color code, and which channels are available on each time slot. There is no definitive source for this information in WPA, so your help is urgently needed!

In the meantime, if you have a connected DMR repeater in your location, you can try accessing Time Slot 2, Talk Group 2 with your repeater's Color Code. If that doesn't work try Talk Group 31422 on TG2 and then TG1. Once you connect successfully, remember to check the availability a little before the net every Wednesday (around 7:25 pm.)

Ham Radio Calendar

December 5 – RAE Club Meeting at Red Cross.

December 6 - ARRL 160-Meter CW Contest. See www.arrl.org/160-meter

December 7 - FT8 Roundup. See www.rttycontesting.com

December 10 – Wattsburg Wireless Meeting

December 12 – Union City Wireless Meeting

December 14 - ARRL 10-Meter Contest. See www.arrl.org/10-meter

December 14 – Wattsburg Christmas Party

December 16 – Conneaut Club Meeting

December 21 – VE Session

December 22 - ARRL Rookie Roundup See
www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

December 24 – Christmas Eve

December 25 – Merry Christmas!